

Decision No. 25678

CONFIDENTIAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Welfare League of Camp Meeker,  
Complainant,

vs.

F.E. Meeker (sole femme) and  
Julia E. Meeker,

Defendants.

Case No. 3105.

In the Matter of the Application of  
Effie M. Meeker and Julia E. Meeker,  
owners of CAMP MEEKER WATER SYSTEM,  
for an order of the Commission estab-  
lishing a schedule of increased flat  
rates and metered rates for the service  
of water to the consumers of Camp  
Meeker, Sonoma County, California.

Application No. 17952.

Griffith R. Williams, for Welfare League and  
St. Dorothy Rest, interested parties.

Mrs. Marguerite MacKall, for herself and  
League Member Consumers, complainants.

W.E. Wescoatt, for Miss Effie M. Meeker,  
defendant and applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION ON FURTHER HEARING

On March 14, 1932, the Railroad Commission issued its  
Decision No. 24567 in the above entitled proceedings establishing  
therein a schedule of increased rates and also ordering the de-  
fendants to install with due diligence and substantially in ac-

cordance with plans submitted certain necessary enlargements, replacements and improvements to the water system to the end that existing inadequate and unsatisfactory service conditions be remedied. Upon request of some fifty members of the Welfare League of Camp Meeker, the Commission issued its Order on May 19, 1933, reopening the above entitled proceedings for further public hearings which were held at Camp Meeker and San Francisco before Examiner Satterwhite.

Certain of the members of the Welfare League contended that the owners of this utility have failed to comply fully with the Order of the Commission in improving the water plant and that the service is still inadequate and unsatisfactory; said members request that the established rate of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per annum be reduced to seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50).

The testimony shows that during certain periods in July and August of 1932 there was insufficient pressure or no water at all for several hours at a time in the higher elevations of the community. It furthermore appears from the record that defendants were very slow and dilatory in the installation of improvements in 1932 which primarily was the cause of complaints being made during the summer of this year. At present defendants have employed, as ordered, a competent superintendent, have spent several thousand dollars replacing mains and water lines with larger pipe, developing additional water and increasing storage facilities. In addition to this, the repair work now being carried on continuously by the full-time superintendent has put the system in a dependable operating condition for the first time in many years. As a matter of fact, the complaining consumers admitted that during the present year 1933 the service conditions have been generally satisfactory.

From a consideration of the evidence, it is clear that defendants are realizing little or nothing in excess of out-of-pocket operating expenses including depreciation under existing rates. It is also apparent that the owners have attempted in good faith to comply with the orders of this Commission and have done so to the full extent of their financial abilities so to do. In view of these facts, the request of the Welfare League of Camp Meeker for modification of our original decision in these proceedings should be dismissed.

O R D E R

The petition of the Welfare League of Camp Meeker for further hearing of the above entitled proceedings having been granted, public hearings having been held thereon, the matters having been submitted, and the Commission being fully advised in the premises,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the request of the Welfare League of Camp Meeker for modification of Decision No. 24567 be and it is hereby dismissed.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1933.

W. J. [unclear]  
Leon [unclear]  
M. A. [unclear]  
W. B. [unclear]  
Commissioners.